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SECRET

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RELEASER IN PART 971
C47 INCOMING
TELEGRAM

PAGE #1 OF #2 BEIJING 16971 00 OF 00 220940Z 4199 EAP4421

ACTION EXP-88
ACTION OFFICE CH-85
INFO J-03 K-03 L-03 M-03 T-03 U-03 V-03 W-03 X-03 Y-03 Z-03 P-01 R-01 L-01 U-01 P-01 E-01 F-01 G-01 H-01 I-01 J-01 K-01 L-01 M-01 N-01 O-01 P-01 Q-01 R-01 S-01 T-01 U-01 V-01 W-01 X-01 Y-01 Z-01

INFO LOG-00 AG3-00 INR-00 EUR-00 ES-00 CIAE-00 NSCE-00
NSAE-00 SSO-00 MA-00 PM-00 INRE-00 ANAE-00 SP-00
P-02 1013 V

0 220940Z JUN 99
FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1S16

INFO AIT TAIPEI
AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL SHANGHAI

AMCONSUL SHENYANG

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMCONSUL CHENGDU CHONGQING

SECRET BEIJING 16971

LIN015

SECDEF PASS OSD, ISA AND DIA

CINCPAC FOR FPA FINNEY

E.R. 12356: DECL: DADR

TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, PINK, CIVIS, CH

SUBJECT: TCHAI - EYEWITNESS CHINESE ACCOUNT OF JUNE 4 PLA TANK CRUSHING 11 STUDENTS AND RELATED EARLY MORNING EVENTS IN TIANANMEN SQUARE

REFS: A) FBI 02106103889, B) BEIJING 16846

1. SECRET ENTIRE TEXT.

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2. SUMMARY:

UNIVERSITY STUDENT WHO SPENT THE NIGHT OF JUNE 3-4 IN TIANANMEN SQUARE DESCRIBED ON JUNE 28 EVENTS AND DEATHS HE HAD WITNESSED, INCLUDING AN EARLY MORNING INCIDENT DURING WHICH 11 STUDENTS WERE CRUSHED TO DEATH BY A PLA TANK AT THE INTERSECTION OF LIUBUKOU AND CHANGANJIE. END SUMMARY.

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A NUMBER OF OTHER DEMONSTRATORS HAD SEEN WHAT HE HAD SEEN ON JUNE 3-4, THE STUDENT DECLARED, BUT MOST WERE TOO FRIGHTENED FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES TO TELL THE TRUTH NOW. HE CONTINUED THAT AFTER THE TANKS WENT BY, HE WENT OVER TO COUNT THE FLATTENED CORPSES OF HIS COLLEAGUES SO THAT HE COULD BEAR RELIABLE WITNESS LATER IN HOPES OF ULTIMATE JUSTICE AND RETRIBUTION FOR THE KILLINGS.

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NO RUBBER BULLETS

4. THE STUDENT SAID THAT ON JUNE 4 AROUND 2 A.M. HE WAS POSITIONED IN CHANGANJIE, THE AVENUE OF LASTING PEACE, JUST NORTH OF THE EAST END OF THE GREAT HALL

BEIJING 16971 00 OF 00 220940Z 4198 EAP4421
OF THE PEOPLE. HIS YOUNGER BROTHER WAS ELSEWHERE IN THE SQUARE; THEY HAD BOTH BEEN THERE FOR MANY DAYS. ON THE NIGHT OF JUNE 3, THE STUDENTS BELIEVED THAT WHEN TROOPS CAME IN TO TAKE THE SQUARE, THEY WOULD FIRE RUBBER BULLETS. CONSEQUENTLY, MANY OF THE STUDENTS IN THE FIRST LINE OF BARRICADES ON THE EAST AND WEST SIDES OF CHANGANJIE HELD UP PADDED COATS TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM THE PROJECTILES. HOWEVER, THE FIRST LINES OF STUDENTS FELL AFTER THE TROOPS OPENED FIRE. THE STUDENT SAID HE HAD ALSO BEEN CONVINCED THAT RUBBER BULLETS WOULD BE USED. HE HAD A SICKENING FEELING WHEN HE NOTICED THE BULLETS STRIKING SPARKS OFF THE PAVEMENT NEAR HIS FEET. HE SAID THAT HE SAW MANY STUDENTS FALL DURING THE ENSUING HOUR. HE BECAME ENRAGED AT THE DEATHS OF HIS COLLEAGUES, HE SAID, AND THREW BRICKS AT THE ONCOMING TROOPS OUT OF A DESIRE FOR REVENGE AND A RAGED FOR WHAT THEY WERE DOING, EVEN THOUGH HE KNEW THERE WAS NO MATCH. "IN BATTLE, YOU STOP THINKING AND JUST FIGHT", HE SAID.

5. WHEN THERE WERE A NUMBER OF CASUALTIES, THE STUDENT SAID HE AND ANOTHER STUDENT USED A MAKE-SHIFT STRETCHER TO CARRY THE DEAD AND WOUNDED TO THE NEAREST RED CROSS AREA, WHICH WAS LOCATED IN THE SQUARE'S NORTHWEST CORNER. HE SAID THAT HE HIMSELF MADE NO FEWER THAN A DOZEN TRIPS, AND HE RECKONED FROM THE STATE OF THE WOUNDED THAT ONLY TWO OF THOSE HE CARRIED WOULD SURVIVE. HE CITED ONE LOCAL RESIDENT WHO HAD BEEN EXCEPTIONALLY BRAVE. EVEN AS THE TROOPS CONTINUED TO FIRE BETWEEN APPROXIMATELY 2 AND 3 A.M., THE RESIDENT MADE 31 JOURNEYS ON HIS THREE-WHEELED CART FERRYING WOUNDED FROM A FIRE ZONE TO THE RED CROSS AREA.

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VOTING ON THE EXODUS

6. WHEN CONTINUED RESISTANCE WAS CLEARLY FUTILE, PERHAPS AROUND 4 A.M., THE STUDENT SAID THAT THE LEADERS ANNOUNCED OVER THE BROADCASTING SYSTEM THAT THEY WOULD PUT TO A VOICE VOTE WHETHER EVERYONE SHOULD STAY OR VACATE THE SQUARE. THE STUDENT SAID THAT THE VOICES SHOUTING "STAY" WERE ACTUALLY JUST AS NUMEROUS AS THOSE WHO VOTED "LEAVE", BUT THE LEADERS ANNOUNCED THE MAJORITY DECISION AS "LEAVE". THE STUDENT SAID THAT MOST OF THOSE WHO VOTED TO STAY WERE OUT-OF-TOWNSERS WHO HAD COME IN FOR THE DEMONSTRATIONS AND WHO REALLY HAD NOWHERE ELSE TO GO. AFTER TALKING WITH THE TROOP COMMANDERS SENT IN TO CLEAR THE SQUARE, THE STUDENT LEADERS AGREED TO VACATE THE SQUARE ALONG A SOUTHEAST CORRIDOR FROM THE CENTRAL MONUMENT. THAT A FEW THOUSAND ("JIAGUANGYI") ACTUALLY EXITED VIA THE CORRIDOR.

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7. THE STUDENT ALSO SAID THAT THEY LEFT BEHIND BOTH LIVING AND DEAD DEMONSTRATORS. HE SAID THAT AMONG THE DEAD, HE HAD LEARNED FROM OTHERS, WERE TWO RED CROSS WORKERS DRESSED IN THEIR UNIFORMS WHO WERE NONETHELESS GUNNED DOWN. HE ALSO SAID THAT NO ONE DARED ADMIT THIS FACT NOW, INCLUDING THE RED CROSS. HE IS CONFIDENT THAT EVENTUALLY THE TRUTH WILL BE TOLD.

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8. THE LARGE GROUP OF STUDENTS THAT EXITED THE SQUARE TURNED WEST ON CHANGANJIE, PASSING THE KENTUCKY FRIED CHICKEN AND THE BEIJING DUCK

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UNCLASSIFIED
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**INCOMING
TELEGRAM**

PAGE 82 OF 82 BEIJING 16971 08 OF 04 220948Z
RESIDENTS. THEY TURNED NORTH ON LIUBUKOU ROAD.
THE GROUPS WERE ORGANIZED, FOR THE MOST PART, BY
THEIR INSTITUTIONS OF STUDY, WITH BEIJING UNIVERSITY
AT THE HEAD FOLLOWED BY QINGHUA UNIVERSITY, THE
UNIVERSITY OF POLITICS AND LAW, TIANJIN UNIVERSITY,
ETC. AS THE BEIBA STUDENTS ROURED THE CORNER onto
CHANGANJIE, THEY, AND THE STUDENTS BEHIND THEM
SUCCESSIVELY, SHOUTED AT THE FOUR TO SIX STATIONARY
TANKS FACING WEST ON CHANGANJIE THAT THE TROOPS WERE
BEASTS AND FASCISTS.

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9. THE STUDENT SAID THAT WITHOUT ANY WARNING THE
TANKS STARTED TOWARD THEM. ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE
STREET, TANK NUMBER 188 PRESUMABLY, BUT NOT
NECESSARILY, OF THE 8TH TANK DIVISION, WHICH IS KNOWN
TO HAVE ENTERED THAT NIGHT FROM THE WEST, SUDDENLY
DID A U-TURN NEAR THE TELEGRAPH BUILDING ENTRANCE,
WHERE THE STUDENT AND MANY OTHERS HAD RUN FOR REFUGE.
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10. THE STUDENT SAID THAT ONLY THE TELEGRAPH
BUILDING OFFERED A BREAK IN THE METAL FENCE ON BOTH
SIDES OF THE STREET, SO HE WAS FORTUNATE TO ESCAPE
INTO THE FULLY CROWDED ENTRANCE WAY. TANK NUMBER 188
THEN RACED BACK FASTER THAN A PUBLIC BUS NORMALLY
WOULD INTO OTHER ONCOMING STUDENTS MARCHING WEST.
THE STUDENT SAID ONE OF HIS COLLEAGUES ATTEMPTED TO
LEAP THE SOUTH FENCE, BUT ONLY SUCCEEDED IN HANGING
ONTO THE FENCE. HIS LEGS WERE CUT OFF. (SEE REF A'S
ANTE-PENULTIMATE PARAGRAPH FOR ANOTHER VERSION OF
THIS INCIDENT.)

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11. AFTER SOME SORT OF GAS BOMB WAS THROWN FROM A
TANK (SEE BELOW) AND ALL THE TANKS HAD PASSED, THE
STUDENT SAID HE WALKED OVER FROM THE TELEGRAPH
BUILDING ENTRANCE TO COUNT THE BODIES SO THERE WOULD
BE AT LEAST ONE RELIABLE WITNESS LATER TO THE
KILLINGS. HE SAID THAT THE BODIES WERE SMASHED FLAT,

ALL IN ALL -- JUST AS IN A DONALD DUCK CARTOON --
EXCEPT THAT HE NOTICED THE BRAINS SQUISHED OUT BEHIND
THE FLATTENED HEADS. A FEW BICYCLES IN THE GROUP
WERE SMASHED TO CARICATURES OF VEHICLES. THE SIGHT
WILL NEVER LEAVE HIM, HE SAID, AND HE HOPED THAT BY
REPORTING IT, SOMEDAY JUSTICE WOULD ULTIMATELY BE
DONE IN AVENGING THESE DEATHS.

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THE USE OF GAS

12. THE STUDENT SAID THAT ONE OF THE OTHER TANKS,
NOT NUMBER 188, HAD PASSED BY HIS GROUP AND LOBBED
OUT A KIND OF GAS BOMB. HE SAID HE COULD NOT SAY
WHAT THE GAS WAS, EXCEPT THAT THE SMOKE WAS YELLOW
AND ANYONE WHO CAUGHT A WHIFF HAD VERY SORE GLANDS
-- PEARLS! IN THE THROAT. NO ONE CRIED, HE SAID, SO
HIS COLLEAGUES HAD CONCLUDED THAT IT WAS CHILDISH --
NOT TEAR -- GAS. HE COULD NOT SAY POSITIVELY WHAT
THE GAS WAS.

/
OTHER RECOUNTED EVENTS (SEE REF B)

13. [REDACTED] I ASKED THE STUDENT WHY IT TOOK FROM 5
A.M. TO 6 A.M. TO GO THE RELATIVELY SHORT DISTANCE
FROM THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF TIANNAMEN TO THE CORNER
OF CHANGANJIE AND LIUBUKOU. THE STUDENT SAID THAT
PROGRESS WAS VERY SLOW BECAUSE SO MANY BEIJING
RESIDENTS LINED THE QIANNAN AREA AND, CRYING,
INSISTED ON SHAKING AND HOLDING HANDS WITH EACH OF
THE STUDENTS COMING OUT FROM THE SQUARE.

4198 ZAP4421

BEIJING 16971 08 OF 04 220948Z

4199 ZAP4421

14. THE STUDENT SAID THAT HE LATER LEARNED [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THAT OTHERS HAD DIED IN
THE SQUARE AFTER THE MAIN BODY OF STUDENTS AND
DEMONSTRATORS LEFT. THE YOUNGER BROTHER'S
CLASSMATE'S ELDER [REDACTED]

15. [REDACTED]
BEN TWO. ACCORDING TO THIS TWENTY-FOURTH REPORT ACCOUNT,
SOME OF THE STUDENTS WHO STILL REFUSED TO LEAVE AFTER
6 A.M. WERE CRUSHED TO DEATH WITH METAL TRUNCHEONS
ABOUT 4 FEET LONG. ALSO, ACCORDING TO THE SAME
SOURCE, AROUND 7:30 A.M. A SMALL NUMBER OF BODIES
WERE STACKED TOGETHER AND BURNED. THE STUDENT WAS
UNABLE TO GIVE ANY FURTHER DETAILS; HE SAID HE DID
NOT KNOW THAT THOSE REPORTS WERE TRUE ALTHOUGH HE
PERSONALLY BELIEVED THEM.

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16. IN RIDING

15. [REDACTED]

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16. COMMENT: THE STUDENT'S ACCOUNT PROVIDES
EYEWITNESS EVIDENCE OF SOME DEATHS ON EITHER EDGE OF
THE NORTH END OF TIANNAMEN SQUARE AND OF THE DEATHS
OF 11 STUDENTS ON CHANGANJIE AFTER THE PLA SHEEP.
ELEMENTS OF HIS ACCOUNT DOVETAIL WITH THE OFFICIAL
VERSION, E.G., THE SOUTHEAST CORRIDOR PEACEFUL EXIT
OF A MAJORITY OF THE STUDENTS LEFT IN THE SQUARE
AROUND 5 A.M. HIS ACCOUNT OF THE LIUBUKOU-CHANGANJIE
CRUSHING OF 11 STUDENTS BY PLA TANK NUMBER 188
TALLIES WITH REPEATED ACCOUNTS OF A MASSACRE IN THAT
AREA THAT CIRCULATED WIDELY AND SOICKLY (E.G., REF
A). IN HIS TELLING, THE ONLY PROVOCATION BY THE
STUDENTS WAS THE CHANTING TAUNT "BEASTS! FASCISTS!".
WE FIND HIS ACCOUNT OF THAT EPISODE CREDIBLE. HIS
ACCOUNTS OF OTHER INCIDENTS ARE WORTH RECORDING AS
OTHER EVIDENCE BECOMES AVAILABLE. LILLEY

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